

WE CLAIM:

1. A computer-implemented method for masking dynamic regions of a user interface for determining differences in the user interface, comprising:
  - 5 generating a mask for a first snapshot of the user interface, wherein the mask corresponds to a set of coordinates within the first snapshot;  
associating the mask with a set of snapshots according to a snapshot key, wherein the set of snapshots includes the first snapshot; and  
applying the mask to the set of snapshots such that the area of each  
10 snapshot that corresponds to the coordinates of the mask is ignored when the first snapshot is compared with another snapshot of the set of snapshots.
2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein generating the mask for a first snapshot occurs in response to the mask being included in a default mask table.
- 15 3. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the mask is associated with the set of snapshots prior to any comparison between the first snapshot and another snapshot of the set of snapshots.
4. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising copying mask from the default mask table to a snapshot mask table prior to any  
20 comparison between the first snapshot and another snapshot of the set of snapshots.
5. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein generating the mask for a first snapshot occurs in response to the mask being included in a snapshot mask table.
6. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein the mask is  
25 associated with the set of snapshots prior to any comparison between the first snapshot and another snapshot of the set of snapshots.

7. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein the mask is associated with the set of snapshots by a user after the comparison between the first snapshot and another snapshot of the set of snapshots.

8. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising  
5 recalculating a cyclical redundancy check value for the snapshots within the set of snapshots when the mask is associated with the set of snapshots.

9. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the mask is associated with the set of snapshots according to a bulk add operation.

10. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the snapshot key  
10 is produced from a selectable combination of the information included in a file related to the first snapshot.

11. A computer-readable medium that includes computer-executable instructions for masking dynamic regions of a user interface for determining differences in the user interface, comprising:

15 generating a mask for a first snapshot of the user interface, wherein the mask corresponds to a set of coordinates within the first snapshot;

associating the mask with a second snapshot according to a snapshot key, wherein the first snapshot and second snapshot are related according to the snapshot key; and

20 applying the mask to first snapshot and the second snapshot such that the area of the first snapshot and the second snapshot that corresponds to the coordinates of the mask is ignored when the first snapshot is compared with the second snapshot.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein generating the mask for a first snapshot occurs in response to the mask being included in a default mask table.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising copying the mask from a default mask table to a snapshot mask table prior to any comparison between the first snapshot and another snapshot of the set of snapshots.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein generating the mask  
5 for a first snapshot occurs in response to the mask being included in a snapshot mask table.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising recalculating a cyclical redundancy check value for the snapshots within the set of snapshots when the mask is associated with the set of snapshots.

10 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the mask is associated with the set of snapshots according to a bulk add operation.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the snapshot key is produced from a selectable combination of the information included in a file related to the first snapshot.

15 18. A system for masking dynamic regions of a user interface for determining differences in the user interface, comprising:

a target user interface device from which a first snapshot and second snapshot of the user interface is taken; and

a server that includes an application that is configured to:

20 generate a mask for the first snapshot of the user interface, wherein the mask corresponds to a set of coordinates within the first snapshot,

associate the mask with the second snapshot according to a snapshot key, wherein the first snapshot and second snapshot are related according to the snapshot key, and

apply the mask to first snapshot and the second snapshot such that the area of the first snapshot and the second snapshot that corresponds to the coordinates of the mask is ignored when the first snapshot is compared with the second snapshot.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the application is further configured to  
5 generate the mask in response to the mask being included in a default mask table.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the application is further configured to copy the mask from a default mask table to a snapshot mask table prior to any comparison between the first snapshot and another snapshot of the set of snapshots.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the application is further configured to  
10 generate the mask in response to the mask being included in a snapshot mask table.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein the application is further configured to recalculate a cyclical redundancy check value for the snapshots within the set of snapshots when the mask is associated with the set of snapshots.

23. The system of claim 18, wherein the mask is associated with the set of  
15 snapshots according to a bulk add operation.

24. The system of claim 18, wherein the snapshot key is produced from a selectable combination of the information included in a file related to the first snapshot.